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Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan

Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

Responsibility of States for internationally wrongful acts

Letter dated 22 February 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

By addressing this letter to you, I would like to draw your attention to the ongoing propaganda campaign of the Government of Azerbaijan during this session of the General Assembly, another example of which is contained in document A/65/723-S/2011/62.

In this letter, Azerbaijan notes that it was first to begin "the practice of informing the Secretary-General and Member States about the ongoing violations of the ceasefire". This "practice of informing", however, has been and continues to be used by Azerbaijan to mislead not only the international community but also its own public, by publishing the above-mentioned and other similar letters in Azeri media outlets.

The deceptive letter-writing campaign of Azerbaijan contains a series of distorted facts and assumptions, obvious falsities about Armenia, Nagorno Karabakh, the progression of events in the region as well as the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Minsk Group-led peace process, which Azeri leadership spares no effort to derail.

Azerbaijan uses these distortions to accuse my Government of intentions of "annexation of Azerbaijani territories" and "ethnic cleansing", without giving much thought to the gravity and repercussions of those allegations.

Azerbaijan continues to write about the so-called "illegal Armenian occupation" without once mentioning what preceded that "occupation". In fact, it

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was preceded by the referendum conducted in Nagorno Karabakh, in full compliance with the then valid laws and legislation governing the region, and the people of Nagorno Karabakh opted for self-determination. In response to the exercise of their rights, Azerbaijani authorities launched a full-scale aggression, ethnic cleansing and, ultimately, all-out war against Armenians in the cities, towns and villages of Azerbaijan.

The international community witnessed and confirmed the countless atrocities and heinous crimes perpetrated by Azerbaijani authorities towards the defenceless Armenian population. In February 1988, as a response to a peaceful and constitutional demand of the Nagorno Karabakh people to exercise its right to self-determination, the Azeri authorities organized an armed mob which launched pogroms against Armenians living in the Azeri city of Sumgait. These massacres were the first acts of mass killings followed by criminal proceedings launched by the Soviet authorities. Immediately after declaring its independence from the Soviet Union, however, Azerbaijan freed the accused murderers and openly saluted them as national heroes through mass media.

The reports of international human rights groups testify that these events were intended to exacerbate the fear and horror of ethnic Armenians in other parts of Azerbaijan. Massacres in Ganja, Baku and other cities between 1988 and 1991 were far more barbaric and massive, leading to deportation and ethnic cleansing of over half a million ethnic Armenians.

These atrocities were followed by unprecedented Azeri military offensives and operations designed to implement a military solution to the question of Nagorno Karabakh. Once again, it was Azerbaijan which started an armed aggression against Nagorno Karabakh.

It is obvious that the 4 February letter circulated by the Azerbaijani representative and the related propaganda campaign are not helpful for the resolution of the Nagorno Karabakh issue and will only make the entire resolution process more difficult. The question then arises: What purpose do this and other previously circulated letters serve? There can only be one plausible answer: to mislead the United Nations and the entire international community and portray the Armenian side as an "aggressor" or "occupier" in order to deflect Azerbaijan's constant belligerent actions towards Nagorno Karabakh and Armenia and to lay the groundwork to justify Azerbaijan's aspirations for a military solution to the Nagorno Karabakh issue.

The President of Azerbaijan and other high-ranking officials continue to make belligerent statements about resolving the issue of Nagorno Karabakh through war. As a result, Azerbaijan has deliberately and systematically violated the ceasefire, provoking an escalation of an already tenuous situation at the borders. Moreover, President Aliyev glorifies the deaths of the soldiers who are involved in breaches of the ceasefire by naming them national heroes, further inflaming Azeri domestic public opinion against Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh and increasing public support for a renewed war.

Armenia condemns the circulation of such shameful propaganda and disinformation, which creates major obstacles for the promotion of constructive discussions and negotiations among the parties involved.

In this context, upon instructions from my Government, I draw your attention to the ongoing violations of the ceasefire by the armed forces of Azerbaijan, as recorded for the month of January 2011 (see annex). These adventurous actions by Azerbaijan discredit the peace process and make a negotiated settlement increasingly more difficult to achieve.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 34, 39, 66 and 75, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Garen **Nazarian**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex to the letter dated 22 February 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Violations of the ceasefire by the armed forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan from 29 December 2010 to 1 February 2011

			Firing	
			From Azerbaijani side	
N	*(Direction)*	*Date, time*	*Type of weapon*	*Ammunition*
1.	Kongur	29.12.10 13.30	AK	10
2.	Mwvses	30.12.10 17.00	AK	4
3.	Berdavan	30.12.10 17.00	SVD	30
4.	Ajgehovit	31.12.10 23.25	AK	40
5.	Vazashen	31.12.10 23.25	AK	15
6.	Barekamavan	31.12.10 13.40	SVD	2
7.	Agarak	31.12.10 19.50	AK	4
8.	Dovekh	03.01.11 09.55	PK	15
9.	Chinari	05.01.11 13.30	Machine gun 12.7 mm	1
10.	Dovekh	05.01.11 14.35	SVD	4
11.	Berdavan	07.01.11 12.50	SVD	3
12.	Chinari	08.01.11 15.20	SVD	25
13.	Chinari	08.01.11 15.50	AK	7
14.	Chinari	08.01.11 15.50	SVD	3
15.	Agarak	08.01.11 23.00	AK	5
16.	Dovekh	09.01.11 15.00	AK	3
17.	Berdavan	09.01.11 15.00	AK	35
18.	Paravaqar	11.01.11 21.30	AK	6

			Firing	
			From Azerbaijani side	
N	(Direction)	Date, time	Type of weapon	Ammunition
19.	Vazashen	11.01.11 21.20	AK	10
20.	Vazashen	11.01.11 21.55	AK	6
21.	Hordiz	12.01.11 16.45	AK	1
22.	Takhibeyli	12.01.11 18.00	AK	8
23.	Jraberd	12.01.11 07.25	AK	1
24.	Vazashen	12.01.11 22.00	AK	6
25.	Vazashen	12.01.11 23.30	AK	5
26.	Agarak	12.01.11 19.40	SVD	6
27.	Agarak	12.01.11 19.40	SVD	6
28.	Vazashen	14.01.11 22.00	Machine gun 12.7 mm	3
29.	Vazashen	14.01.11 22.00	PK	10
30.	Shavarshavan	15.01.11 14.45	AK	8
31.	Kongur	16.01.11 15.00	SV-12.7 mm	2
32.	Kongur	16.01.11 15.00	PK	120
33.	Kongur	16.01.11 15.00	SVD	20
34.	Bardzruni	16.01.11 11.15	PK	9
35.	Berqaber	17.01.11 15.40	SVD	2
36.	Voskevan	17.01.11 22.50	AK	1
37.	Bakhanis	17.01.11 23.05	AK	15
38.	Barekamavan	20.01.11 19.05	AK	3
39.	Barekamavan	20.01.11 19.05	PK	3
40.	Barekamavan	21.01.11 12.50	SVD	1

			Firing	
			From Azerbaijani side	
№	(Direction)	Date, time	Type of weapon	Ammunition
41.	Barekamavan	21.01.11 13.15	SVD	5
42.	Barekamavan	21.01.11 13.30	PK	10
43.	Barekamavan	21.01.11 13.30	AK	8
44.	Barekamavan	21.01.11 17.50	PK	15
45.	Barekamavan	21.01.11 17.50	SVD	20
46.	Qolagir	22.01.11 17.20	SVD	3
47.	Ajgehovit	23.01.11 13.00	AK	50
48.	Ajgehovit	23.01.11 13.05	AK	20
49.	Ajgehovit	23.01.11 15.10	AK	5
50.	Ajgehovit	23.01.11 15.10	Machine gun 12.7 mm	3
51.	Ajgehovit	23.01.11 19.15	AK	30
52.	Qolagir	24.01.11 22.15	Machine gun 12.7 mm	10
53.	Qolagir	24.01.11 22.15	PK	20
54.	Dovekh	24.01.11 15.20	SVD	1
55.	Qolagir	25.01.11 21.45	AK	40
56.	Qolagir	25.01.11 21.45	PK	30
57.	Khndzorut	25.01.11 09.10	AK	20
58.	Chinari	26.01.11 13.40	SVD	3
59.	Vazashen	27.01.11 17.30	AK	6
60.	Bakhanis	27.01.11 23.00	AK	1
61.	Khndzorut	27.01.11 21.50	AK	20

			Firing	
			From Azerbaijani side	
N	*(Direction)*	*Date, time*	*Type of weapon*	*Ammunition*
62.	Voskepar	28.01.11 14.05	AK	2
63.	Khndzorut	28.01.11 18.05	AK	2

Summary of the violations of the ceasefire by the armed forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the borderline of Armenia from 29 December 2010 to 1 February 2011:
Number of violations: 63
Shots: about 782 (PK ~ (232), SVD — (134), machine gun 12.7 mm — (19), AK ~ (395), sniper weapon 12.7 mm — (2)).
Summary of the violations of the ceasefire by the armed forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the borderline of Nagorno Karabakh from 29 December 2010 to 1 February 2011:
Number of violations: 697
Shots: about 3,372 (RPG-7 — (3), PK ~ (236), RPK 5.45 mm ~ (8), SVD — (297), machine gun 12.7 mm ~ (16), sniper weapon 12.7 mm — (4), UTYOS-12.7 mm ~ (34), AK ~ (2,774)).